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**Lee**

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(54) **DATA DISPLAYING APPARATUS AND METHOD**

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**G06F 17/60** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **235/379**; 235/376

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 235/379, 235/487, 375, 376; 715/526, 851, 853; 707/1; 345/581, 629, 1.1, 9; 524/108; 549/364  
See application file for complete search history.

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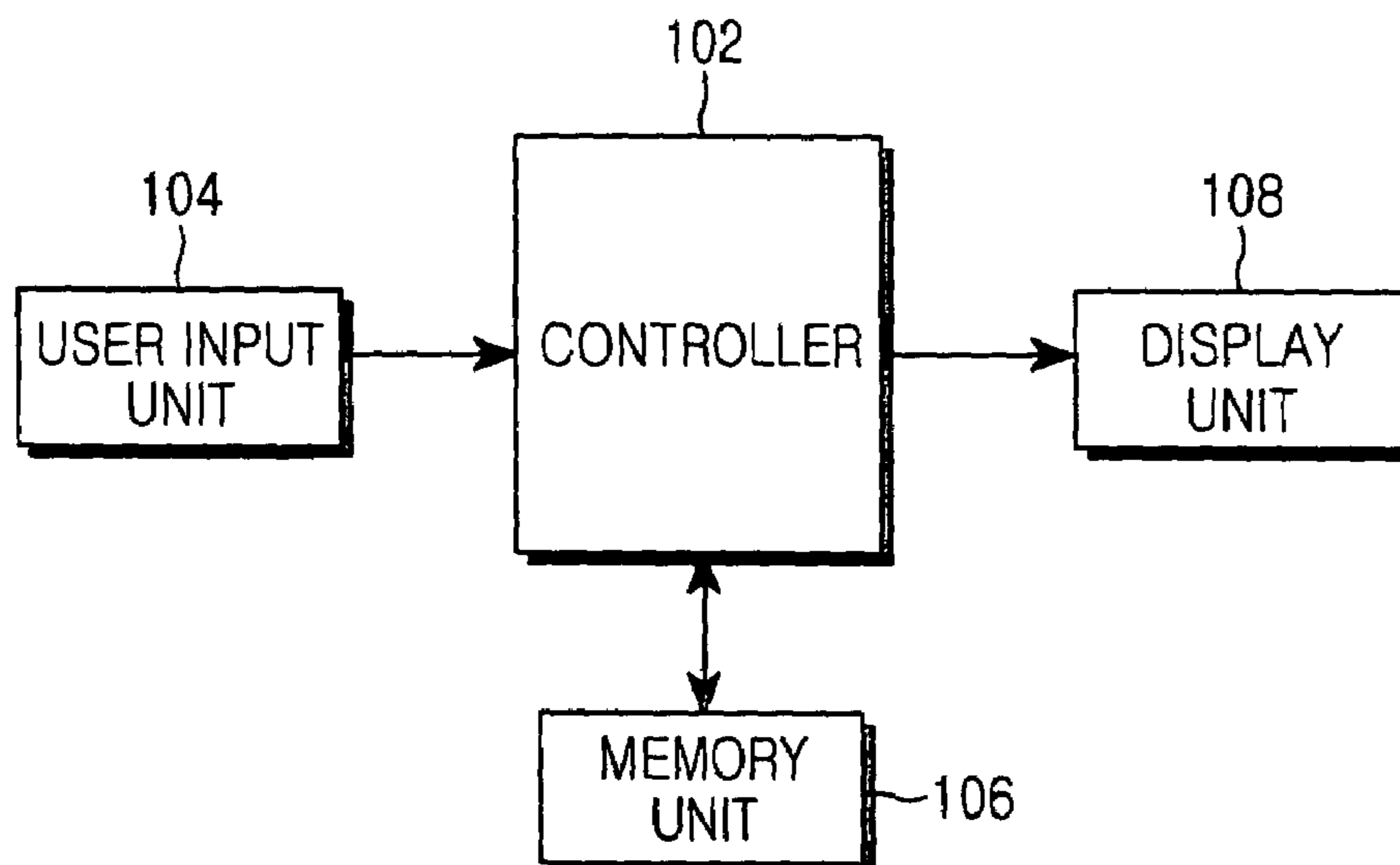
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A data displaying apparatus that can efficiently display a plurality of data on a relatively small display screen. The data displaying apparatus includes a user input unit for outputting a data display request signal if there is a data display request from a user, a memory unit for storing a plurality of data and a plurality of identification information corresponding respectively thereto, a display unit, and a controller. The controller controls the display unit to display the plurality of data. Also, the controller controls the display unit to display the plurality of identification information if the data display request signal is inputted, display data corresponding to specific identification information via a first layer if the specific identification information is selected from among the plurality of identification information, and enlargedly display a specific area of the specific information via a second layer if the specific area is selected from the specific identification information via the first layer.

**17 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets**



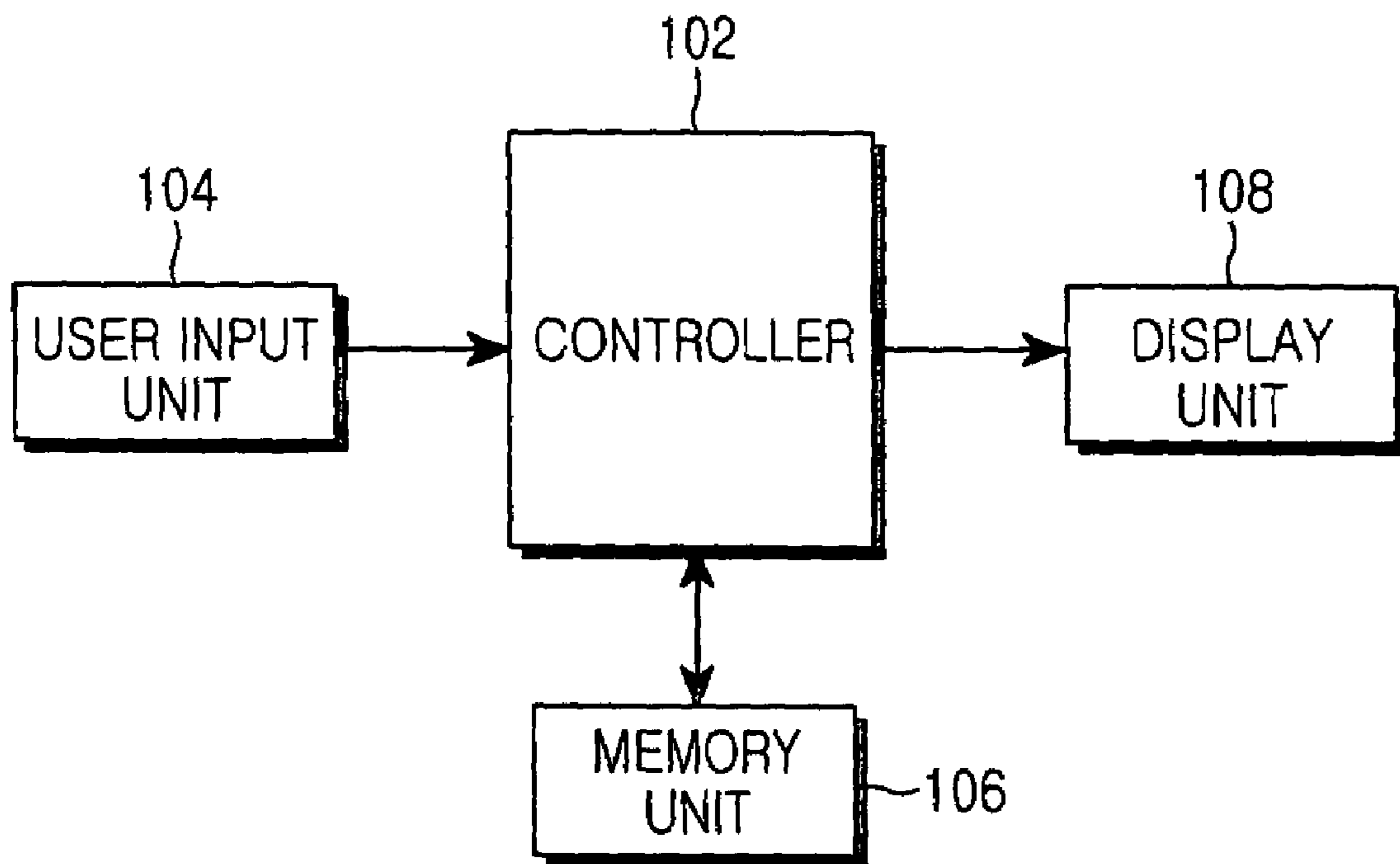


FIG. 1

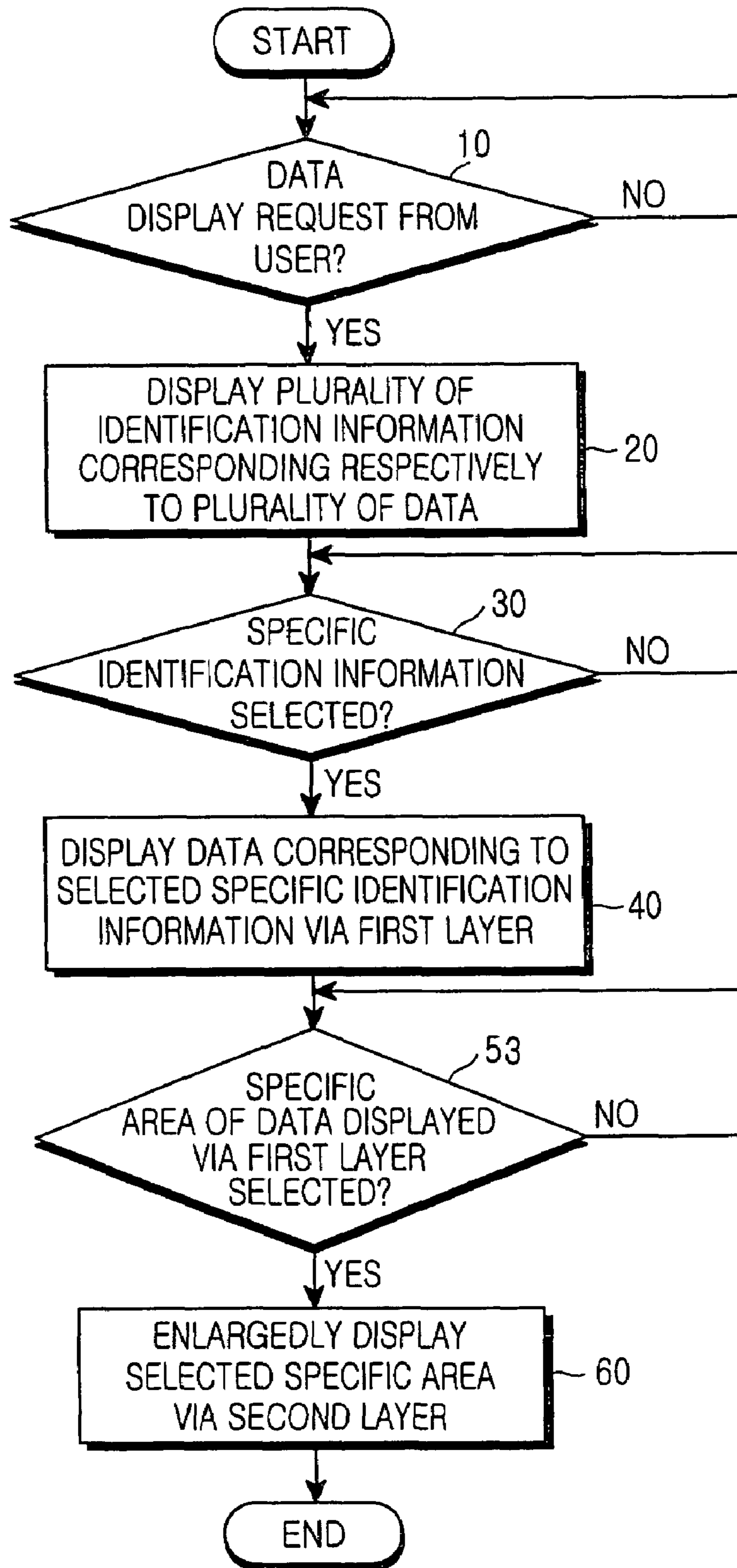


FIG. 2

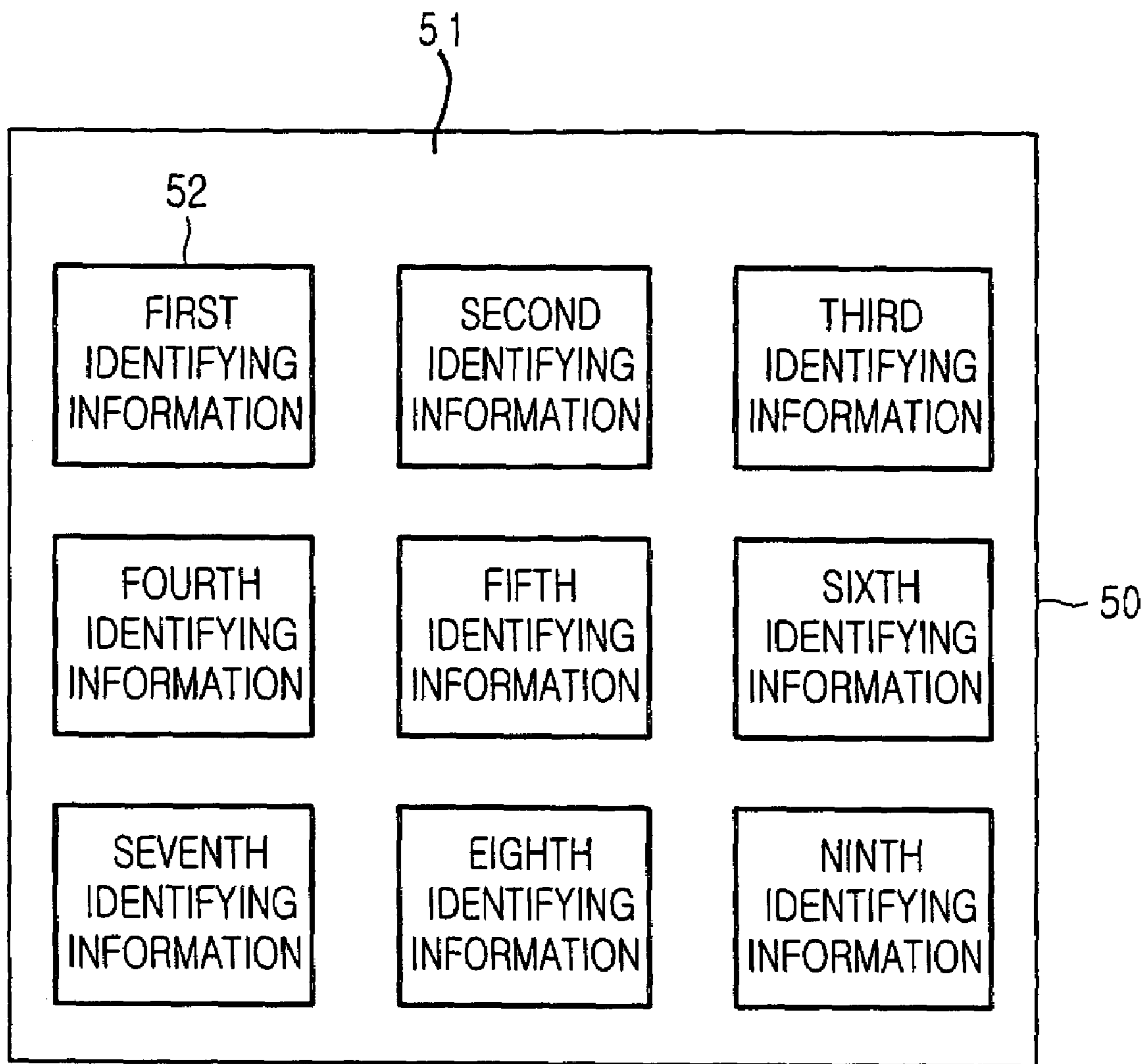


FIG.3A

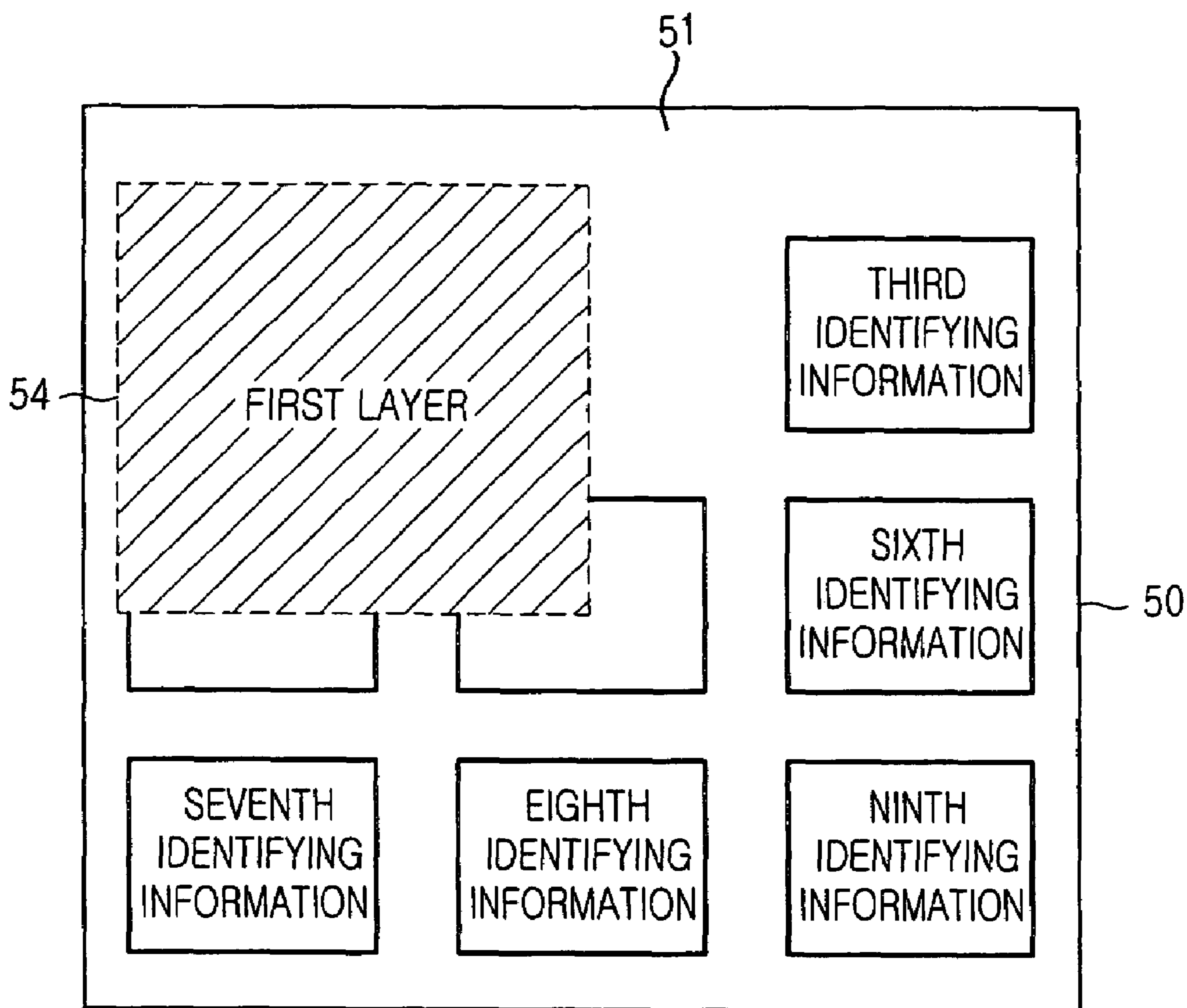


FIG.3B

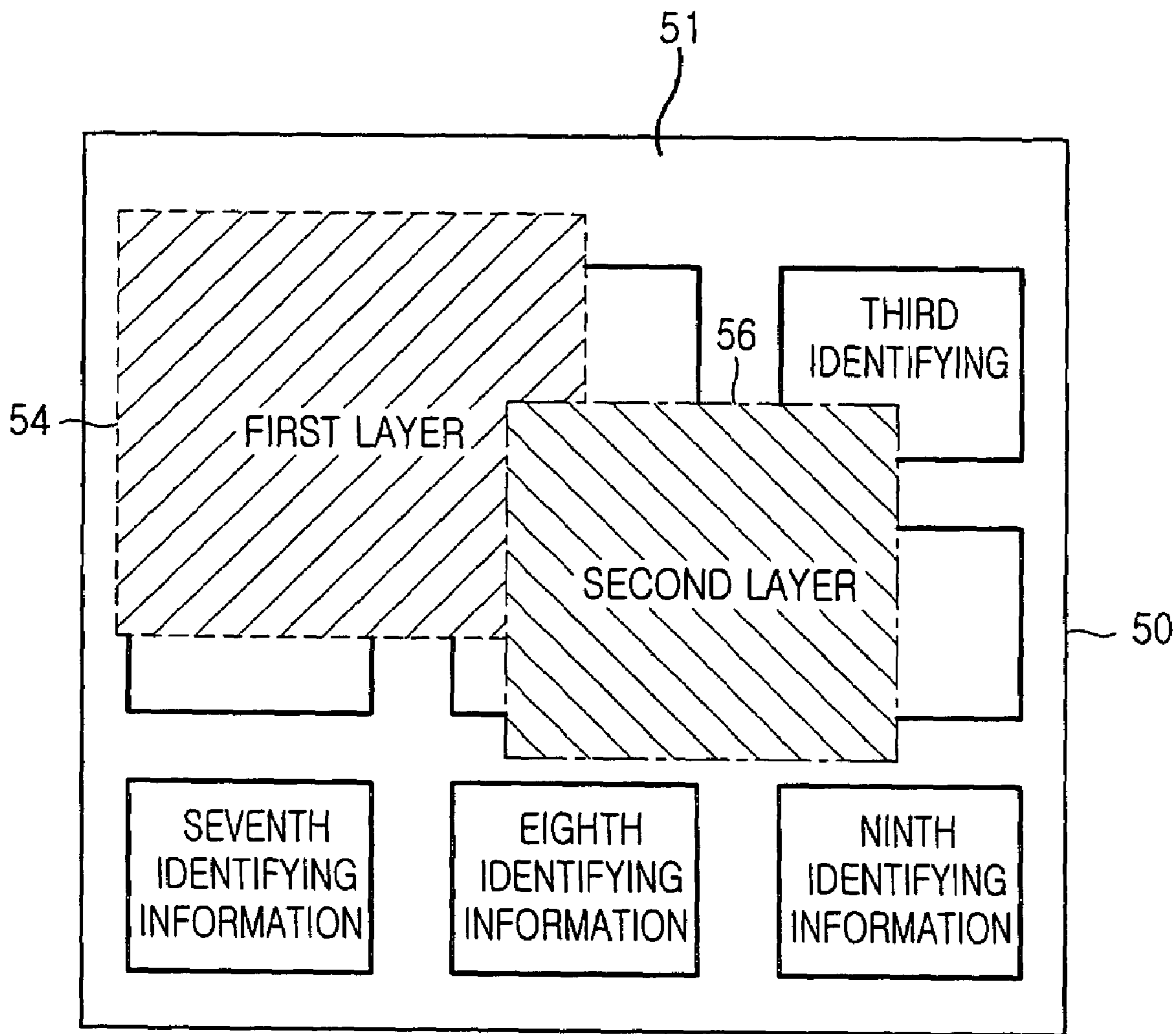


FIG.3C

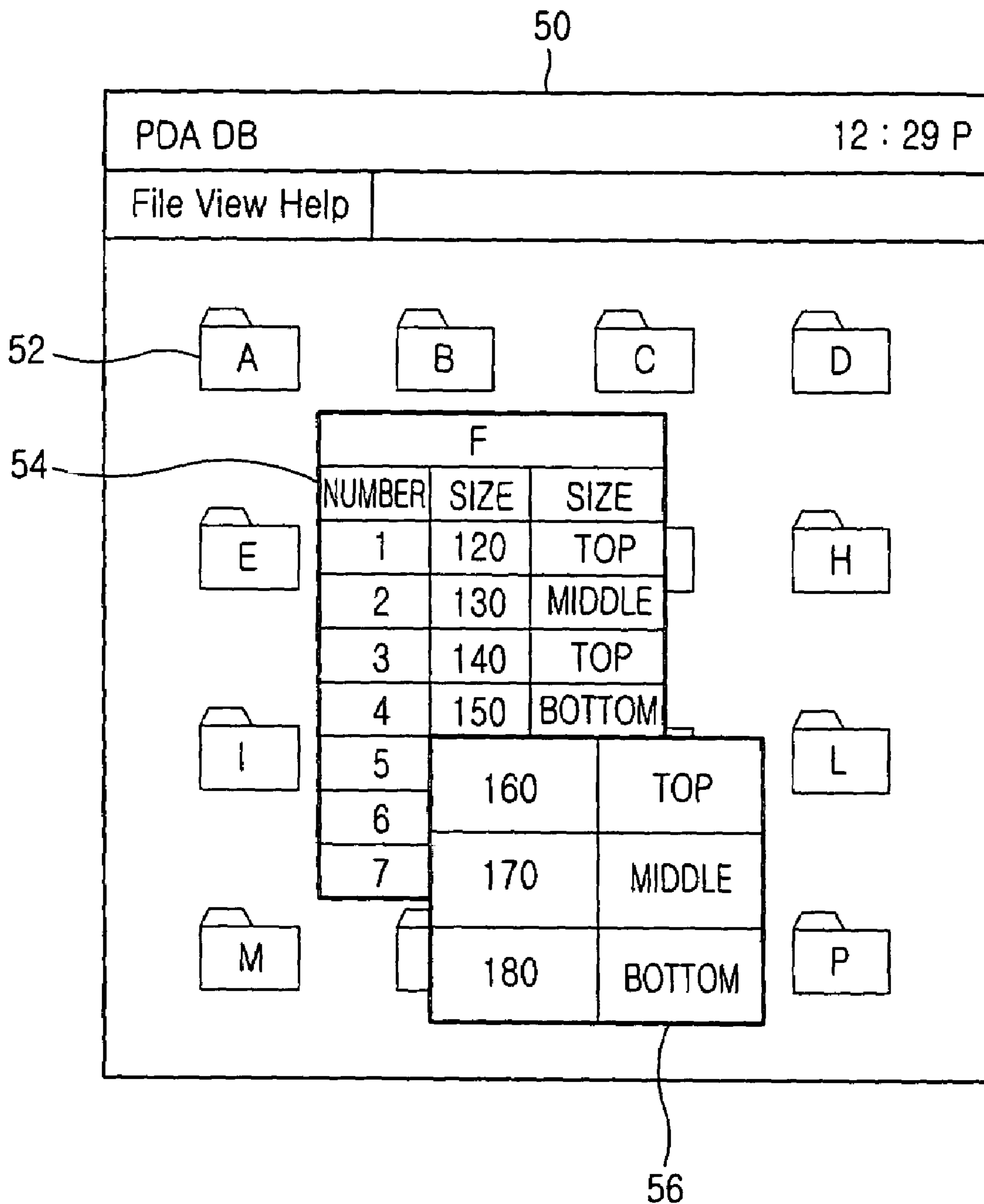


FIG. 4

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## DATA DISPLAYING APPARATUS AND METHOD

### PRIORITY

This application claims priority to an application entitled "DATA DISPLAYING APPARATUS AND METHOD", filed in the Korean Intellectual Property Office on Mar. 3, 2004 and assigned Serial No. 2004-14436, the contents of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### 1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a data-displaying apparatus and method, and more particularly to a data-displaying apparatus and method for efficiently displaying a plurality of data on a relatively small-sized display screen.

#### 2. Description of the Related Art

As science and technology advance, various kinds of personal terminals such as a mobile communication terminals, PDAs (Personal Digital Assistant) and the like (e.g., PALM™ PILOTS) have appeared on the market. Such personal terminals are relatively small so that users of the personal terminals can easily carry them and compute and send, and receive various information therethrough. The display screens of many existing personal terminals are necessarily small because the personal terminals are themselves small. Moreover, these small display screens are usually incapable of simultaneously displaying a plurality of data thereon, and, if they do, the display of the data is unduly compressed. Therefore, the prior art personal terminal having a small sized display screen has the disadvantage of not being able to efficiently display a plurality of data thereon.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a data displaying apparatus and method for efficiently displaying a plurality of identification information data, such as, icons, filenames, file directories, pictures, etc. on a small display screen if there is a data-display request from a user, and providing information corresponding to the data-display request to the user therethrough.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a data-display apparatus and method for displaying a plurality of identification information corresponding respectively to a plurality of data on a small display screen and if there is a data-display request from a user, translucently displaying data corresponding to a specific one of the plurality of identification information if the specific identification information is selected from among the plurality of identification information, enlarging a specific area of the translucently displayed data if the specific area is selected from among the translucently displayed data, and displaying the enlarged specific area, so that the user can easily see the plurality of data.

In accordance with an aspect of the present invention, the above and other objects can be accomplished by the provision of a data displaying apparatus and method including a user input unit for outputting a data display request signal if there is a data-display request from a user, a memory unit for storing a plurality of data and a plurality of identification information corresponding respectively thereto, a display unit for displaying the plurality of data, and a controller for controlling the display unit to display the plurality of identification information if the data-display request signal is

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inputted by the user input unit at the request of the user, displaying data corresponding to specific identification information displayed via a first layer if the specific identification information is selected from among the plurality of identification information, and displaying in an enlarged form a specific area of the desired specific information of the first layer via a second layer if the specific area is selected from the specific identification information of the first layer.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a data displaying method including displaying a plurality of identification information corresponding respectively to a plurality of data if a data-display request signal is inputted by a user, displaying specific data corresponding to a specific one of the plurality of identification information via a first layer if the specific identification information is selected from the plurality of identification information, and displaying a specific area of the specific data via a second layer if the specific area is selected from the specific data displayed via the first layer, wherein the second layer enlarges the specific area.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other objects, features and other advantages of the present invention will be more clearly understood from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing a data displaying apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a flow chart illustrating a data displaying method according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3A is a view illustrating a base layer window showing specific identification information;

FIGS. 3B and 3C are views illustrating first and second layers superimposed upon a base layer window showing specific identification information according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 4 is a view illustrating an exemplary data display screen shot according to the embodiment of the present invention.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the annexed drawings. In the following description, a detailed description of known functions and configurations incorporated herein will be omitted when it may make the subject matter of the present invention unclear.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing a data displaying apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention. The data displaying apparatus comprises a controller **102**, a user input unit **104**, a memory unit **106** and a display unit **108**.

The controller **102** controls each element of the data displaying apparatus. Namely, the controller **102** controls the display unit **108** to display a plurality of identification information corresponding respectively to a plurality of data if there is a data-display request signal from a user. Moreover, if specific identification information is selected from among the plurality of identification information, the controller **102** controls the display unit **108** to display data corresponding to the specific identification information via a first layer thereon. Additionally, if a specific area is selected by the user from among the data displayed in the first layer,



the controller **102** controls the display unit **108** to display in an enlarged form the specific area via a second layer.

The user input unit **104** may be implemented with, for example, a touch panel, a keypad, or other known user input system or methods to output a signal corresponding to a touch or key input from a user. For example, if there is a touch or key input from the user corresponding to a data display request, the user input unit **104** outputs a data-display request signal.

The memory unit **106** includes a ROM (Read-Only Memory) for storing an operation program, an EEPROM (Electrically Erasable Programmable ROM) and a RAM (Random Access Memory). The memory unit **106** stores a plurality of data and a plurality of identification information corresponding respectively thereto. Here, each of the plurality of identification information may be visually displayed by an icon, picture, a file name, a folder name, or other visual element.

The display unit **108** can be implemented with, for example, a LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) device or other suitable display device. The display unit displays a plurality of data as determined by the controller **102**. For example, when commanded to do so by the controller **102**, the display unit displays a plurality of identification information which corresponds respectively to the plurality of data which corresponds to specific identification information via a first layer and a specific area of the specific information displayed in the first layer via a second layer. Here, the specific area is displayed in enlarged form in the second layer.

FIG. **2** is a flow chart illustrating a data displaying method according to an embodiment of the present invention.

At step **10**, the controller **102** determines whether there is a data-display request from a user. If there is the data-display request via the user input unit **104**, the controller **102** controls the display unit **108** to display a plurality of identification information corresponding respectively to a plurality of data stored in the memory unit **106**, at step **20**. For example, with reference to FIG. **3A**, the controller **102** controls the display unit **108** to display the plurality of identification information such as first to ninth identification information on a user interface screen **50** as shown in FIG. **4**. Here, each of the plurality of identification information may be implemented with an icon, a file name, a folder name, etc.

After the display unit displays the plurality of identification information (in the base layer **51**), the controller **102** determines whether specific identification information is selected from the plurality of identification information, at step **30**. If the specific identification information is selected, the controller **102** controls the display unit **108** to display data corresponding to the selected specific identification information via a first layer, at step **40**. If first identification information **52**, (as shown in FIG. **3A**) is selected from among first to ninth identification information, the controller **102** controls the display unit **108** to display data corresponding thereto via a first layer **54**, as shown in FIG. **3B**. Here, the corresponding data is translucently displayed via the first layer **54** which is superimposed upon the base layer **51**.

After displaying the corresponding data, the controller **102**, at step **53**, determines whether a specific area of the first layer **54** is selected by the user. If the specific area is selected from the data displayed via the first layer **54**, the controller **102** controls the display unit **108** to enlarge and display the selected specific area via a second layer **56**, at step **60**. For example, as shown in FIG. **3C**, if a specific area of the first layer **54** is selected, the controller **102** controls the display

unit **108** to display the second layer **56** enlarging the selected specific area, overlapping the first layer **54**.

FIG. **4** is a view illustrating an exemplary screen shot of the display according to an embodiment of the present invention. The data display screen shot is an example of a PDADB (Personal Digital Assistant Data Base) screen **50**. As applied to a PDA, a data displaying method will be described in detailed below. If there is a data-display request from a user, the PDA displays folder names A to P on the (base layer) PDADB screen **50**. Here, each of the folders **52**, displayed with the letters A to P, indicates a plurality of identification information corresponding respectively to a plurality of data. For example, if folder F is selected from among the folders, the PDA displays data corresponding to identification information indicated by the folder F via a first layer **54**. Here, the first layer **54** is translucently displayed upon the base layer. Also, if a specific area is selected among the corresponding data displayed via the first layer **54**, the PDA displays a second layer **56** enlarging the selected specific area on the first layer **54**.

As described above, the data displaying apparatus and method according to the present invention can efficiently display a plurality of data on a relatively small-sized display screen if there is a data-display request from a user. More specifically, the data displaying apparatus and method according to the present invention can display a plurality of identification information corresponding respectively to a plurality of data on a relatively small-sized display screen if there is a data-display request from a user. Also, if specific identification information is selected from among the plurality of identification information, the data displaying apparatus translucently displays data corresponding to the selected specific identification information on the relatively small-sized display screen. Further, if a specific area is selected from the translucently displayed data which is displayed in the first layer, the data displaying apparatus enlarges the specific area and displays it on the relatively small-sized display screen (i.e., the second layer). Accordingly, the user can easily see and interact with the plurality of data on the relatively small display screen.

Although the preferred embodiments of the present invention have been disclosed for illustrative purposes, those skilled in the art will appreciate that various modifications, additions and substitutions are possible, without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention as disclosed in the accompanying claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A data displaying apparatus comprising:

- a user input unit for outputting a data-display request signal if there is a data-display request from a user;
- a memory unit for storing a plurality of data and a plurality of identification information corresponding to said plurality of data;
- a display unit for displaying the plurality of data; and
- a controller for controlling said display unit to display the plurality of identification information if said data display request signal is inputted by the user, display data corresponding to specific identification information via a first layer if the specific identification information is selected from among the plurality of identification information, and display a specific area of the specific information in an enlarged form via a second layer if the specific area is selected from the specific identification information of the first layer.

2. The data displaying apparatus as set forth in claim **1**, wherein each of said plurality of identification information is an icon.

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3. The data displaying apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein the first layer translucently displays the data corresponding to the specific identification information.

4. The data displaying apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of identification information is a file name.

5. The data displaying apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein the first layer translucently displays the data corresponding to the specific identification information.

6. The data displaying apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of identification information is a folder name.

7. The data displaying apparatus as set forth in claim 6, wherein the first layer translucently displays the data corresponding to the specific identification information.

8. The data displaying apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first layer translucently displays the data corresponding to the specific identification information.

9. A data displaying method comprising:

displaying a plurality of identification information corresponding respectively to a plurality of data if a data-display request signal is inputted by a user;

displaying specific data corresponding to a specific one of the plurality of identification information via a first layer if the specific identification information is selected from the plurality of identification information; and

enlarging and displaying a specific area of the specific data of the first layer via a second layer if the specific area is selected from the specific data displayed via the first layer, wherein the second layer enlarges the specific area.

10. The data displaying method as set forth in claim 9, wherein each of the plurality of identification information is an icon.

11. The data displaying method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the first layer translucently displays the data corresponding to the specific identification information.

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12. The data displaying method as set forth in claim 9, wherein each of the plurality of identification information is a file name.

13. The data displaying method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the first layer translucently displays the data corresponding to the specific identification information.

14. The data displaying method as set forth in claim 9, wherein each of the plurality of identification information is a folder name.

15. The data displaying method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the first layer translucently displays the data corresponding to the specific identification information.

16. The data displaying method as set forth in claim 9, wherein the first layer translucently displays the data corresponding to the specific identification information.

17. A data displaying apparatus comprising:

a user input unit for outputting a data-display request signal if there is a data display request from a user;

a memory unit for storing a plurality of data and a plurality of identification information corresponding to said plurality of data;

a display unit for displaying the plurality of data; and

a controller for controlling said display unit in response to the data-display request by the user to display the plurality of identification information, said display unit further displaying data corresponding to specific identification information via a first layer if the specific identification information is selected from among the plurality of identification information, and displaying a specific area of the specific information in an enlarged form via a second layer if the specific area is selected from the specific identification information of the first layer.

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